


RECYCLE e-BITS

(excerpts from US-EPA “12 Tips for Reducing Solid Waste”)

Tip 10: Compost Yard Trimmings and Some Food Scraps




Backyard composting of certain food scraps and yard trimmings can significantly reduce the amount of waste that needs to be managed by the local government or put in a landfill. When properly composted, these wastes can be turned into natural soil additives for use on lawns and gardens, and used as potting soil for house plants. Finished compost can improve soil texture, increase the ability of the soil to absorb air and water, suppress weed growth, decrease erosion, and reduce the need to apply commercial soil additives.


 If you have a yard, allow mown grass clippings to remain on the lawn to decompose and return nutrients back to the soil, rather than bagging and disposing of them.


Composting is Easy!



A compost pile can be set up in a corner of the yard with few supplies. Choose a level spot about 3- to 5-feet square near a water source and preferably out of direct sunlight. Clear the area of sod and grass. When building a composting bin, such as with chicken wire, scrap wood, or cinder blocks, be sure to leave enough space for air to reach the pile. One removable side makes it easier to tend the pile.

 Many foods can be composted, including vegetable trimmings, egg shells, coffee grounds with filters, and tea bags. In addition to leaves, grass, and yard clippings, vacuum cleaner lint, wool and cotton rags, sawdust, shredded newspaper, and fireplace ashes can be composted. DO NOT compost meats, dairy foods, or any fats, oil, or grease because they can attract pests.

 Start the pile with a 4-inch layer of leaves, loose soil, or other coarse yard trimmings. If you are going to compost food scraps (a slightly more involved process), you should mix them with yard trimmings when adding them to the pile. Alfalfa meal or clean cat litter may be added to the pile to absorb odors. In dry weather, sprinkle water on the pile, but don't get it too soggy. Turn the pile every few weeks with a pitchfork to circulate air and distribute moisture evenly. Don't be surprised by the heat of the pile or if you see worms, both of which are part of the decomposition process. Make sure children do not play in the composting pile or bin.

 In most climates, the compost is done in 3 to 6 months when it becomes a dark crumbly material that is uniform in texture. Spread it in the garden or yard beds or under the shrubbery. The compost also can be used as potting soil.

JUNCTION CITY CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM

ITEMS ACCEPTED:

**ALL ITEMS MUST BE FREE OF FOOD
AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS.
PLEASE RINSE PROPERLY.**

PAPER

(LOOSE IN CONTAINER – NO PLASTIC BAGS)
Mixed waste paper
Magazines & catalogs
Newspaper (including glossy ads)
Telephone books
Junk mail (envelopes with plastic windows are accepted)
Cardboard
Cereal & other dry food boxes (remove waxed liner)
Paper bags & sacks
Shredded paper (place in paper bag)
Gift wrap

METALS

Aluminum cans
Soda cans
Tin cans
Pots & pans

PLASTICS (larger than 6 oz. and no lids)

Plastic jugs (such as milk, detergent, and fabric softener)
Plastic jars (such as peanut butter containers)
Plastic bottles (such as water, soda, shampoo)
Plastic Dairy tubs (such as butter, cottage cheese, etc.)

Glass Bottles & Jars: Place in the yellow tote only **green, clear, and brown.** No broken containers, no window glass, no bakeware, ceramics or Pyrex, and no light bulbs. Labels can stay but lids must be removed. Please clean containers. Food contaminates cause health problems. Place **INSIDE** the yellow tote.

Motor Oil: Place in a non-glass (no larger than 1 gallon) container with a screw on lid. A bleach or milk jug works best. This is necessary to avoid spillage. No other types of liquids can be accepted. Place **NEXT TO** the yellow tote.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

**NO ITEMS THAT ARE CONTAMINATED WITH FOOD OR
OTHER SUBSTANCES.
PLEASE RINSE PROPERLY.**

PAPER

Tissue paper, toilet paper, paper towels & napkins
Waxed or plastic coated paper & cardboard
Paper cups or plates
Ice cream cartons
Frozen juice containers
Pizza boxes & other food soiled papers & cardboard
Pet food bags
Cement bags
Charcoal bags

METALS

Scrap metals
Foil juice pouches

PLASTICS

Microwave cookware
Meat, bakery, vegetable trays & lids
Plastic bags (shopping, frozen food, bread & dry cleaning)
Takeout containers (usually clear or black plastic)
Cups or plates or utensils
Prescription pill containers
Lids or caps from plastic bottles & tubs
Tarps

STYROFOAM PRODUCTS

Styrofoam cups & fast food containers
Packing peanuts & blocks

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Ceramic plates, cups, dishes, & china
Plate, window & mirror glass
Light bulbs
Wire & clothes hangers
Batteries
Tires
Food Waste
Garbage
Candle Jars
Filters (air condition or automotive)

CONTAINERS THAT HELD TOXIC MATERIALS

(Any container with a **WARNING** or **CAUTION** label)
Automotive product containers (gas, oil, antifreeze, etc)
Garden products (such as fertilizers or pesticides)
Aerosol cans
Cleaning product containers
Paint or stain containers